

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the specification:**

Paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 11 has been amended as follows:

**ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for covering objects, particularly payloads being shipped on flat bed trailers. The apparatus [comprises] has a slidable hoist connected to a track suspended over a payload. The hoist has a retractable line which is connected to a spreader bar that can be connected to a covering that will be lifted and spread over the payload as the hoist is maneuvered by a remote controlled system along the track. The apparatus also [comprises] has a rod that traverses beneath and near one end of the track. The rod provides support to the trailing portion of the covering as it is pulled over the payload by the hoist.

**In the claims:**

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for covering payloads, said apparatus comprising:
  - (a) a suspended track; ,
  - (b) a hoist, slidably engaged to said track, said hoist having a retractable line;
  - (c) a spreader bar attachable to said retractable line, said bar having means for attaching to a covering; and
  - (d) means to move said hoist.

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
  - (a) a rod that traverses beneath said track[;],

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said rod is rotatable [about its axis].

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

13. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising:

(a) means for a person to [secure himself]be secured to said apparatus to protect against falling from a payload being covered by said apparatus.

Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

14. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said means for a person to be secured comprise:

(a) a tether line suspended from said support structure in generally parallel fashion to said track; and  
(b) a safety cable slidably engaged at one end to said tether line.

***Conclusion***

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of these claims and pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



John W. Smith T

Attorney for the Applicant,  
Reg. No. 39840

**OF COUNSEL**

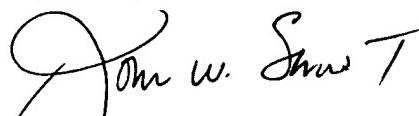
Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP  
One Federal Place  
1819 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Birmingham, Alabama 35203-2104  
(205) 521-8521 (direct dial)  
(205) 521-8000 (main)



### Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of these claims and pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John W. Smith T  
Attorney for the Applicant,  
Reg. No. 39840

### OF COUNSEL

Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP  
One Federal Place  
1819 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Birmingham, Alabama 35203-2104  
(205) 521-8521 (direct dial)  
(205) 521-8000 (main)

**RECEIVED**  
DEC 05 2002  
**GROUP 3600**